Mobilisation of resources for river linking projects

96. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to rope in Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) including corporates controlled by PIOs in massive projects like linking of the rivers and to mobilise PIO resources for river linking project; and

(b) if so, the PIOs and corporates controlled by PIOs who have evinced interest in the river links projects and the offers made by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) A Task Force on Inter-Linking of Rivers under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha has been constituted on 13.12.2002. The terms of reference of the Task Force *inter-alia* include consideration of the various modalities for project funding. The Task Force has been given a time table for preparation of an Action Plan by 31st July, 2003 for giving alternative options for funding and execution of the project as also the suggested methods for cost recovery.

Release of water fromTungabhadra Dam

97. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka had not released Andhra Pradesh's share of 4 tmc. ft. of water from the Tungabhadra Dam;

(b) if so, whether the water was meant to meet the drinking water requirements of Kurnool city and Adoni and Yemmiganur Municipalities in Kurnool district;

(c) whether there is no response from the officials in Karnataka despite repeated pleas for the release of water; and

(d) if so, whether the Central Government have agreed to issue instructions to Karnataka to release water to Andhra Pradesh?